# MONTEREY NEWS

**January 2015**
**Est. 1970 Vol. XLV · Number 1**


## The Town

*By David Irland*

Notes on Select Board meetings from November 24 through December 15.

### Roads and Highways

According to Tree Warden Winston Wilson, dead, dying, and dangerously decaying trees are accumulating in Monterey. Winston proposed a systematic cutting of problem trees at an hourly wage. Attendees at the meeting proposed creating a map of trees graded on their liability potential, modeled on the plan developed by Tanglewood, in Lenox, an organization in the midst of an expensive lawsuit brought on by a death caused by a falling limb. The Tanglewood plan rates trees as AAA, AA, or A, which helps allocate tree cutting resources as efficiently as possible. The job of eliminating the most dangerous trees in Monterey was estimated to be about ten days' work.

Monterey now has a signed contract for the rebuilding and repaving of Route 23 to begin next April when the frost is out of the ground. This includes grinding the existing road surface as was done when some sections were rebuilt two years ago, and then repaving the entire length of its run through town. A lingering question is how many of up to forty culverts need to be replaced prior to the repaving work. The $3.6 million dollar state budget allocation allows for a10% overrun, which the town may try to use to cover the added expense of culvert replacement. This has to be handled carefully because the cost of the project has increased from the initial $1.5 million allocated, and no one wants to risk the overall project by asking for too much money for culvert replacement and have the state decide to shelve the whole project. Shawn Tryon pointed out that this new road surface would save the town money in several ways for many years.

The idea of equipment sharing between towns came up a second time. While hard numbers were not available, Kenn Basler, for one, was supportive of "testing the waters of joint cooperation." The board voted to continue the discussions with surrounding towns.

Joe Baker

*Construction at the Monterey Community Center is proceeding with the arrival of high-efficiency wall panels, here being unloaded in large bundles by Eric Pedersen (driving the lift) and Ed Klausmeyer in the yard of the Wilson-McLaughlin House. The matching fund appeal and the "Buy a Window" campaign have resulted in many donations in addition to the purchase of all twenty-seven new windows which will ensure that we will see the building enclosed for this winter, as long as the weather cooperates, of course. —Joe Baker, Monterey Community Center*

Treated versus untreated salt for the town roads was discussed. Treated salt is thought to go farther, though it's more expensive. Select Board member Scott Jenssen asked for the actual ingredients of treated salt, in the interests of exploring the use of environmentally sound salt. *(See Shawn Tryon's explanation of the winter salt usage on page 22 in the Select Board Corner.)*

Due to inordinately heavy snowfall this last month, Shawn Tryon's plowing crew at times found themselves exhausted and in need of replacements. The board asked Mr. Tryon to develop a list of replacement drivers with the proper commercial drivers license and/or the experience needed to operate at least a one-ton pickup with a plow.

## Transfer Station

The transfer station once again was a topic, and members of the board expressed approval of Zack Battachi, from Master Garbologist of Monterey, who had, in the past, put up $8,000 toward fixing the broken compactor in exchange for three more years of the town's business. This happened according to a verbal contract with the previous director of operations, which itself was a subject of some discussion. If the town no longer contracts with Battachi's business, he will be taking the compactor with him.

On December 1, members of the board met with Shawn Tryon and CET (Center for Ecological Technology) specialist Jamie Cahillane to discuss on-site some of the issues surrounding the proposed new transfer station, the construction of which is estimated to be in the neighborhood of $200,000. Staffing of the station was again discussed, and to address the associated costs of the new facility, higher sticker fees were proposed to cover about one-third of costs. The rest would come from general town revenue. Further work is needed to develop actual timelines, a more detailed construction plan, etc., all of which is to be presented at a future town meeting. *(The "Question of the Month" concerns the proposed transfer station improvements. Please see page 22.)*

## Town Hall

The town hall roof is crumbling in places, and the idea of a new standing seam metal roof met with some approval, though no action was taken.

Inside of town hall there have been discords and disagreements, which, according to some onlookers and townspeople, need to be addressed in a systematic way. To that end, what are hoped to be regular meetings specifically designed to smooth out operations are being scheduled on a weekly basis. At an evening meeting of the Select Board, town employees and outside observers took a look at recent conflicts and discussed whether to move some positions from being elected to being appointed. Several appointments were made to the new Town Hall Structure Advisory Committee, which then examined an older report by the Collins Group on the Town of Sherburne and an article by Mel Dyer-Bennett, who published a study of small town management in the *Monterey News* in 1995-1996.

## Payroll Company

Treasurer Bethany Mielke appeared before the board to talk about her informal survey of other towns' experiences with payroll companies. In her opinion the job should be kept small, in-house, and restricted to one person. Stanley Ross again came out strongly in favor of handing the work over to an outside party, though the board felt favorably disposed toward letting the current arrangement stand, with no immediate changes. With the new fiscal year looming, the board extended to Bethany and others praise for the jobs they've been doing.

Steve Graves

*Mark "Man-About-Town" Makuc, preparing to string lights on the library tree. (For a list of his many roles, see page 10.)*

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

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## Tax Rates

Stanley Ross appeared before the board to discuss the possibility of a two-tier real estate tax for Monterey, one commercial/industrial, and one residential. After subsequent discussion and public input, the Finance Committee chose to maintain a one-rate-for-all structure, voted on and approved by the board.

## Police Department

Rudy Gero, part-time police officer, for whom Chief Gareth Backhaus has created the Special Police Officer category to keep Mr. Gero partially employed in his retirement, submitted a list of concerns and suggestions pertaining to the way the police department is run and the way details are assigned. Scott Jenssen suggested that Mr. Gero give a copy to Chief Backhaus, after which the discussion could move ahead.

Chief Backhaus appeared at the next meeting, December 15, to discuss and/or rebut Mr. Gero's concerns (Mr. Gero was not in attendance). Chief Backhaus mainly countered the claim that the department had high turnover by giving names and backstories to each dismissal going back several years. Mr. Burkhart said that as long as the town was following state norms for its general operation, it would be difficult for anyone to lodge serious complaints.

## Jamie's Court

Greg Carnese and Kelly Tryon of the Parks Department discussed costs associated with the completion of the memorial basketball court behind town hall. An older estimate from 2008 was for $23,000, although to date, $27,000 has already been spent. The discovery of an old building buried in the ground at the excavation site has generated a $10,000 cost overrun. The next issue is whether to fence the court, or provide stadium seating flanked by bushes, or curb-stops, or any combination of these, as a deterrent to vehicles driving on the court and baseballs bouncing off of parked cars. Scott Jenssen, Select Board member, suggested that the Parks Department needed to sell the idea to the town, and attractive drawings or renderings were considered the next step.

Barbara Palmer

*Leigh Tryon and his crew, Pat Twing and Steve Funk, played early Santa for the Bidwell House Museum: they delivered a large trailer containing donated barn beams for a future barn raising at the museum. Thank you, Leigh, Pat, and Steve!*

## Beavers

Eric Ives of Berkshire Wildlife Solutions showed up to talk about Beaver Deceivers™ or flow-control devices and the concerns of Monterey resident Alice Berke about the alleged inhumane trapping of beavers in Monterey. The Lake Garfield outlet is a problem area, and the beavers instinctively would like to interrupt the yearly drawdown.

While Beaver Deceivers™ are effective devices in general (routing the beavers damming efforts further and further from the source of the flow), they only work about 80% of the time, according to Mike Callahan, author and educator, who may be appearing at future meetings (under the auspices of the MSPCA). While beavers are a keystone species and provide a habitat for many other species of animals, and dams in general are a healthy part of the surrounding ecosystem (absorbing toxins,


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for example), in a civilized setting they can be damaging to man-made infrastructure.

The issues around the beavers were unresolved, though it was made clear to Ms. Berke that efforts had been made to treat trapped beavers humanely. Mr. Ives assured her that he did indeed check traps every twenty-four hours as required. Shawn Tryon also mentioned that he had had to smash through ice one winter to unblock the dammed culvert.

## Fire Department

Engine One "doesn't stop," in the words of Fire Chief Shawn Tryon. The brakes have been rebuilt, and despite this and efforts to lighten the one-thousand-gallon truck, it still doesn't like to stop rolling. Whether it's a design fault or not, it's a 1996 truck. A new one is around $660,000. The discussion did not continue beyond this point.

## Broadband Connectivity

WiredWest announced a meeting on December 11 to discuss details of the proposed fiber optic network it is hoping to build in Monterey in conjunction with forty-three other regional towns. One of WiredWest's partners in this initiative, Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), was slated to explain how its engineering department arrived at the 814 dwelling units they have identified as possible connection sites in Monterey. Issues surrounding the approximately $1.5 million bond that Monterey will need to obtain were also scheduled to be discussed. Monica Webb, a WiredWest spokesperson, said that a letter to Monterey residents was in the works to explain in greater detail exactly how residents would be able to go about joining the network. Since under no circumstances would Verizon expand its "Fios" internet service into Monterey (according to Select Board member Kenn Basler), the board willingly signed an agreement that pledged continued support of WiredWest and their own interest in the eventual bonding of the project.

Wayne Burkhart, Select Board chair, expressed approval of WiredWest's competitor Adam Chait's private efforts to wire the town of Monterey as well. "Options are good," said Mr. Burkhart. At an earlier meeting, Larry Klein, a WiredWest alternate director from Monterey, had questioned the legality of Mr. Chait's supplying the Fire Station with internet service. At that time, Shawn Tryon answered that Mr. Chait is in fact licensed to provide a POI (Point of Interconnection).

Stanley Ross, Finance Committee, having attended WiredWest's December 11 meeting, put a few hypothetical questions before the board. For example, how is the Monterey revenue generated by the WiredWest subscriptions to be accounted for, since WiredWest is a cooperative, and all their income goes into one pot? Wayne Burkhart responded, "It will be done *pro rata*!" Mr. Ross did not necessarily believe that to be the case. Mr. Burkhart, switching tacks, strongly agreed that the town did not need another National Grid-type concession in town. Mr. Basler asked, more generally, "How solid *is* WiredWest?" The very significant debt that the town would have to incur—$119,000 per year for twenty years—was a topic of concern, though generally speaking, despite lack of any guarantees, the board continued to favor WiredWest, seemed approving of their business model, and was impressed with their research and presentation.

## Electrical Aggregation

A very short follow-up presentation by Colonial Power Group, an electrical aggregation company, ended in a vote (passed) to put the company's proposal up for a vote at the next town meeting. At a later board meeting, the board signed a statement that the plan as presented was so far agreeable. Electrical aggregation is simply using the entire town of Monterey's buying power to leverage lower rates from suppliers. This is of special interest to town residents in the face of current enormous rate increases from National Grid.

## Cronk Road and Utilities Poles (Electrical Agitation)

Tony Corsee, an engineer from National Grid, came to his third Select Board meeting, this time bringing his supervisor, Jim Kerer, with him, neither of whom was prepared with any new options for the people who will be bearing the cost of running utilities poles to their properties. Nor did they address the inevitable damage to the aesthetics of Cronk Road should that route be chosen for new poles. Despite the officially recorded request at

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the last meeting at which Mr. Corsee appeared that he show up with someone who had the ability to make policy decisions Mr. Kerer could only repeat the exact scenarios Mr. Corsee had already outlined: either bring poles down Sandisfield Road to the tune of $60,000, or Cronk Road (a shorter distance) for $30,000. Either way, the homeowner(s) would bear the costs, and furthermore, no cost sharing was under consideration by National Grid. Once the homeowner has paid for the poles, he can be reimbursed to some extent if any new customers appear along that route during the next five years. The board had asked the National Grid representatives to at least extend the reimbursement period to twenty years as a minimum concession, though this request was never answered. Mr. Kerer further stated that the situation was business as usual for National Grid; that is to say, future rate hikes should not be tied to the reimbursement of an individual homeowner for running power to his home. A heated rebuttal came quickly—it was felt that there was hardly any room to hike rates up any further than they already have been.

A third option that had been proposed by a land owner at the second National Grid appearance was welcomed by all the abutters and neighbors, suggesting that it might be possible to draw power on the Sandisfield side of the circuit. This solution would eliminate the need for poles along either Cronk or Sandsifield Road, though it would involve obtaining power from Western Mass Electric.

Mr. Corsee presented the response from National Grid's legal department (apparently legally admissible), in the form of a simple "no." When asked to clarify, Mr. Corsee said, "We're protecting future revenues." When asked why the future revenues of opening up five or six lots along Sandisfield Road was not attractive to them (should that route be chosen in response to objections from Cronk Road residents), the answer was that there's no guarantee there will be building there. The board countered that business in general has no guarantees. When Karen Allen asked why it made sense to spend $30,000 to run wires down Cronk if it was a developmental dead zone, an attendee at the meeting pointed out that it wasn't National Grid's $30,000 at stake.

Kenn Basler was pointedly clear in his opposition to National Grid's refusal to budge on this issue, and Wayne Burkhart also expressed disappointment that there wasn't the slightest bit of community or public spirit in evidence on the part of National Grid. Mr. Basler remarked that he was looking forward to a future scenario in which National Grid needed something from the town.

Meanwhile, for the second time, the board requested that National Grid send someone who can deal directly with this issue, and the discussion was set to continue yet again.

### Verizon Cell Phone Service

It was reported last month that two Verizon representatives had stated that their cell service was to be available in the Monterey area as soon as the beginning of December. As this proved not to be the case, Chief Backhaus followed up by talking with two different Verizon supervisors for this area. He was told that Verizon had done a survey of Monterey and concluded that there is not a large enough customer base to justify providing service. (There was no explanation as to why the local representatives thought that service was imminent.) Chief Backhaus has a specific interest in Verizon service, as Verizon is one of only two carriers who are approved to provide secure data links to police cruisers in Massachusetts. The AT&T network, which already covers parts of Monterey, apparently is not secure enough for this function. He intends to pursue this issue, perhaps engaging area legislators in the solution. It is the chief's belief that with Verizon certification for this vital service should come an obligation to make the service available to any police department that seeks it.

### Building Inspector

Don Torrico, along with Bill Thornton, from Lenox, won a state technology award for his implementation of the online permitting process called "Permit Eyes," designed by Full Circle Technology.

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## Council on Aging

### Meetings and Foot Care Clinic

The council will be meeting twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the town hall, in the Select Board room. This month's meetings will be January 14 and 28.

Also, on Thursday, January 8, Jane Kelley, BSN, RN, will be offering a foot care clinic at the town hall from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Services available during the clinic include assessments, teaching, nail clipping and filing, corn and callus reduction, comfort measures, gentle foot massage, and referrals (as necessary).

There is a $35 fee. For information or an appointment call Maryellen Brown at 528-1598. We welcome your participation and ideas for wishes, needs, and planning.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

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## Burning Permits in Monterey

This year the Monterey Fire Department will be using an online application for burning permits. They will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, because of DEP regulations, when weather conditions allow for open burning. The DEP requires fires to be started after 10 a.m. and be extinguished by 4 p.m. for air quality purposes. Open burning season is from January 15, 2014, to May 1, 2014.

To obtain a permit go to www.bcburnpermits.com, read the regulations, and follow the section titled "How to obtain a permit." If you cannot obtain a permit online, you can call 413-443-7220 extension 117 (Berkshire County Sheriff's office) and follow the prompts. This is also only available from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Make sure you print out your permit and keep it with you when burning.

- You may only burn brush, no leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris, or any other material.
- All open burning must be a minimum of seventy-five feet from a building or structure.
- Burning is allowed only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Any open fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder.
- No person shall set, maintain, or increase a fire in open air except by permit issued by the Fire Department.
- You must be eighteen years or older to apply for a permit and tend the fire.
- You must have a means to extinguish an open fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the Fire Department.
- The Fire Department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time.
- Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.

## From the Tax Collector's Office:

The fiscal year 2015 real estate and personal property bills for the third quarter have been mailed and are due February 2, 2015. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office (413-528-1443 x117). The fourth quarter tax bills will be mailed in late March and are due May 1, 2015. If you wish, you may pay both the February and May amounts at this time.

Please direct all questions regarding assessments, abatement applications, and personal property taxes to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245 or call (413) 528-1443 x115. Abatement applications must be received in the Assessors' Office by February 2, 2015.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey real estate and personal property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook or credit card in hand. Log on to www.montereyma.gov and click on "Pay Real Estate Taxes Online." You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2015). The bank will assess a minimal fee of $0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

—Mari Enoch
Monterey Tax Collector

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## Community Potluck Suppers

### Next Supper January 21

A few hardy souls braved a nasty, cold, rainy evening to attend the December potluck to hear Barbara Swann, regale us with quotes from pension applications from Tyringham (early Monterey) Revolutionary War soldiers. The applications showed us a view of what they went through during the war from one battlefield to home to another battlefield and another. It was fascinating—too bad if you missed it.

For the January potluck, we have Dr. Lisa Nelson, a practicing family doctor in Pittsfield. A longtime advocate for community wellness, she serves as the Director of Medical Education for the Kripalu Healthy Living programs and as medical director of the non-profit Nutrition Center in Pittsfield. Many of you may remember her informative talk last year on "The Myths of Aging." She will speak this year on "Sugar: America's Favorite Drug." She'll give an overview of the recent trends in obesity and metabolic syndrome and how sugar, more than dietary fat, plays an important part. She said she would cover a bit of the neurochemistry and addictive qualities of sugar as well.

The next Monterey Potluck Dinner will be held on January 21 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce and Barbara Dahlman

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## Thank you from the Bidwell House Museum

Dear Montereyans,

Your wonderful community has carried the Bidwell House into its 25th anniversary as a museum of Berkshire history. This is occasion to celebrate! In 1990 the founding board members opened the doors of the 1750s house to the public. Since that year thousands of visitors have toured the museum, hiked the grounds and attended workshops, lectures and parties. Many, many of you have supported the museum with donations, memberships, serving on the board, and volunteering. Thank you! The 2015 season will open Sunday of Memorial Day weekend with a concert and reception to celebrate all of you.

Township No. 1 Day, the free community celebration of Monterey and Tyringham history, will take place on Friday, July 3 this year. The summer fundraising garden party will take place on Saturday, August 15, from 4 to 7 p.m. Please mark your calendars for these highlights of the summer. I hope you can join us!

The Bidwell House Museum is grateful for the gifts of time, skills, and resources by members of your community. Whether as a volunteer with the "Garden Angels," on a benefit committee, as a program participant, or on the board of directors, Monterey residents are the museum's most important supporters. The museum could not thrive without you. Thanks go to the Monterey Cultural Council and the Select Board for your supporting Township No. 1 Day, our programs and the internships for high school students. And a special thanks to the Monterey Highway Department: You take great care of Art School Road year round.

We are currently planning new programs for next summer. Do you have an idea for a talk or workshop? Please call me! While the building is closed until May, the Bidwell grounds are open for walking or snowshoeing all winter. New trails have been cleared too. Come on up to enjoy the peace of the site.

With much gratitude,

—Barbara Palmer
Executive Director, 528-6888
bidwellhouse@gmail.com

Barbara Palmer

*Bidwell House Museum grounds day volunteers Doug McTavish, Beth Timlege, Chris Goldfinger, Joann Larsen, Lauria Puntin, Barbara Tryon, Cindy Hoogs, and Penny.*

## Conservation Commission
### Overview of Responsibilities

This is the first in a series of articles about the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the Town of Monterey Conservation Commission. Through this series the Conservation Commission hopes to inform property owners about the Commission's role and the owners' responsibilities concerning the procedures and potential environmental impacts of their projects.

Created in 1993 at town meeting, the Monterey Conservation Commission is comprised of volunteer citizens appointed by the Monterey Select Board to serve for three-year terms. The Commission holds public meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the town hall unless otherwise noted on the town website or at town hall.

It is the responsibility of the Commission to locally administer both the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act (SMA). State regulations issued under the WPA are designed to protect and enhance the following areas of interest: flood control, prevention of storm damage, prevention of pollution, fisheries, ground water, public or private water supplies, wildlife habitats, and riverfront areas. The WPA prohibits any filling, excavation, or other alteration of the land surface, water levels, or vegetation in wetlands, regardless of ownership, without the approval of the Commission.

Under the WPA, the Commission reviews project plans, including but not limited to construction, renovations, alterations, additions, docks, bridges, wells, septic systems, tree pruning, tree cutting, land clearing, and river clean-up, and that which include activity in or within one hundred feet of a resource (any lake, pond, stream, swamp, or vegetated wetland) and within two hundred feet of any river in Monterey.

Additionally, the Commission reviews applications under the SMA for the same kinds of projects listed above. The jurisdiction of the SMA is for projects occurring above 1,500 feet of elevation and projects occurring on slopes of 15% grade or greater.

The next article will detail the application requirements for projects under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act.

If you have any immediate questions, please contact us through the town administrative assistant, Melissa Noe.

—Monterey Conservation Commission

# Winter Exhibits at Knox Gallery

Maureen Banner

A robust and enthusiastic crowd filled the Knox Gallery to capacity for the opening reception of our winter community exhibit, *Circle Round*, on the evening of December 5. Many attendees who enjoyed the socializing commented that they would be returning to actually see the exhibit. Certainly no long views were possible, but lively conversation and close viewing seemed to be enjoyed by all.

The quality, quantity, and variety of art were the main draw, but the nibbles provided by the Monterey General Store and underwritten by the Friends of the Library were supplemented by delicious and varied sweets and treats from local bakers and contributors. Michael Marcus's giant platter of veggie sushi rolls was much appreciated as well. The following day, the gallery received many guests and viewers as an early stop on the Monterey Makers Open Studio Day tour.

Forty-three talented and inspired local friends and artists found the theme of "circle round" to be an impetus for exciting new work. In addition to the numerous Monterey artists who participated, contributors from eight other Berkshire County towns, along with a few makers from Connecticut and New York state, submitted work.

Circles were both literally and figuratively referenced in two dimensions—watercolor, oil, acrylic, pencil, photography—and in hard and soft sculptural and three dimensional materials including clay, glass, enamel, metal, stone, and fiber. Several artists work in mixed media, featuring quite a variety of materials. Found sculptural materials became substrate for paint application; wooden sticks and branches were used as armature for fiber; collage, paint, and drawing were used on single flat surfaces.

*Circle Round* ushered in our first outdoor sculpture, by artist Murray Bodin. Bright and colorful, "Circles II" is a welcome addition to our townscape. Viewers are invited to spin the parts as they walk by so that we frequently experience a new vantage.

Exhibiting artists for *Circle Round* are Pat Andrus, Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Diane Blumenthal, Stephanie Blumenthal, Murray Bodin, Christine Casarsa, Jennifer Clark, Essy Dean, Karen Farkas, Josephine Alessi Freedman, Michelle Gillett, Peter Goldberg, Robin Goldberg, Christine Goldfinger, Judy Hayes, Brece Honeycutt, Wendy Jensen, Pamela Johnson, Tasja Keetman, John MacGruer, Nadia Makuc, Michael Marcus, Laurie Norton Moffatt, Stephen Moore, Ellen Murtagh, Pauline Nault, Karin Joy Passmore, Marcia Powdermaker, Penny Pitts, Ellyne Raeuber, Peggy Reeves, Alan Roland, Myrna Rosen, Arrie Setiawati, Olga Schwede, Julie Shapiro, Linda Skipper, Ilene Spiewak, Rose Tannenbaum, Robin Tost, Kolleen Weinrich, Terry Wise, and MaryPaul Yates.

*Circle Round* will be on view through January 31. On February 6 Monterey part-time resident Alan Roland will unveil his watercolor exhibit, *The Magical Ravine off Wallace Hall Road*. Please put the opening reception on the evening of February 7, from 6 to 7:30, on your calendar.

Our sincere thanks to all who supported the Knox Gallery and purchased art from the Knox Gallery during 2014! Please keep in mind that these purchases are a twofold gift—25% of proceeds from all sales benefit your library and keep the gallery going!

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Monterey Makers Open Studio Tour is organized by the Monterey Cultural Council. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery. @Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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**Phone 528-3795**

Maureen Banner

*Monterey kindergarteners contributed their own circle-inspired pieces to a first-time children's annex to our Knox exhibits. Be sure to see their fun and colorful work over the fireplace in the main library room when you visit.*

## Adult Book Group

What a nice meeting we had discussing Bill Bryson's *The Thunderbolt Kid* on such a damp, cold winter's night. Lots of laughs and good conversation. We have a new member: Welcome, Linda Skipper—and thank you Sally Pullen for encouraging Linda to join us.

Our next book is *Peace Like A River* by Leif Enger, to be discussed on January 26, followed by our February book *Time Was Soft There: A Paris Sojourn at Shakespeare & Co.* by Jeremy Mercer. For March, we will be reading *Dear Committee Members: A novel* by Julie Schumacher.

Lots of good reading to keep us occupied during the winter doldrums.

In the meantime, happy holidays to all of you—looking forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

—Ann Canning

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## Of the Meetinghouse

### For the Entire Town

For this issue of the *Monterey News*, I'm going to take a break from my usual "Who's Who" column to write "Of the Meetinghouse." This shouldn't be confused with Mary Kate Jordan's regular feature, "From the Meetinghouse," which tends to draw from inside out. This "Of the Meetinghouse" will draw from outside in.

As you may know, we of the church are embarking on a capital campaign in order to attend to our building, the meetinghouse, which we hope you consider yours as well. The church membership loves that our home is widely used and loved. I, the church's pastor, enjoy the community's enjoyment of our gathering place. The quiet beauty of it, the fitting size of it, the usefulness of its fellowship hall and uplifting spiritedness of its sanctuary: this is an anchor to our village in more ways than just the obvious.

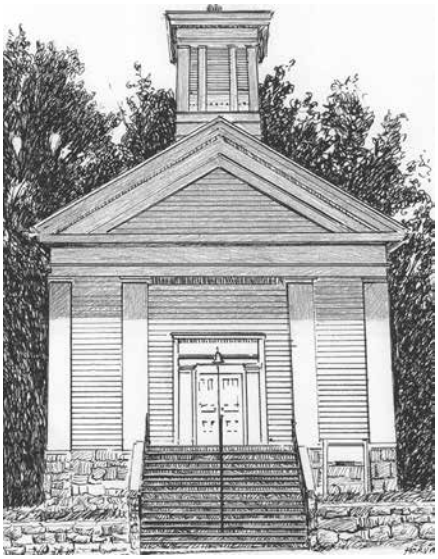
And yet there is that, isn't there? Our New England village looks just the part, something I imagine most in town appreciate and something I know we of the church want to help sustain. And yet the meetinghouse needs painting and some clapboard replaced. The access ramp needs thorough repair and the front steps to be made safe and sound. Tending to these and more will come at major expense, and so we need your help, everyone's help.

As I write this, we are nearing 100% participation from those most active in the worship life of the congregation. I anticipate having reached that goal by the time of publication. This will also bring us to about 40% of our goal of $100,000—which means we've accomplished much in our fundraising but have much still to accomplish.

To this end, I ask you to look for a letter of appeal coming to your mailbox soon. But if you'd prefer not to wait, or you suspect one won't find its way to you, you may write a check out to the Monterey Meetinghouse Fund and send it to the Monterey UCC, PO Box 182, Monterey MA 01245. If you'd like to meet with me in this regard, please call the church at 528-5850 or email me at liz@goodman.md. If you'd like to give but need to do so in a payment plan, we can work that out. Just let me know.

Please give as you can; please also receive as you need. Be in touch if you have need of the meetinghouse. It's here for us all.

—Pastor Liz Goodman



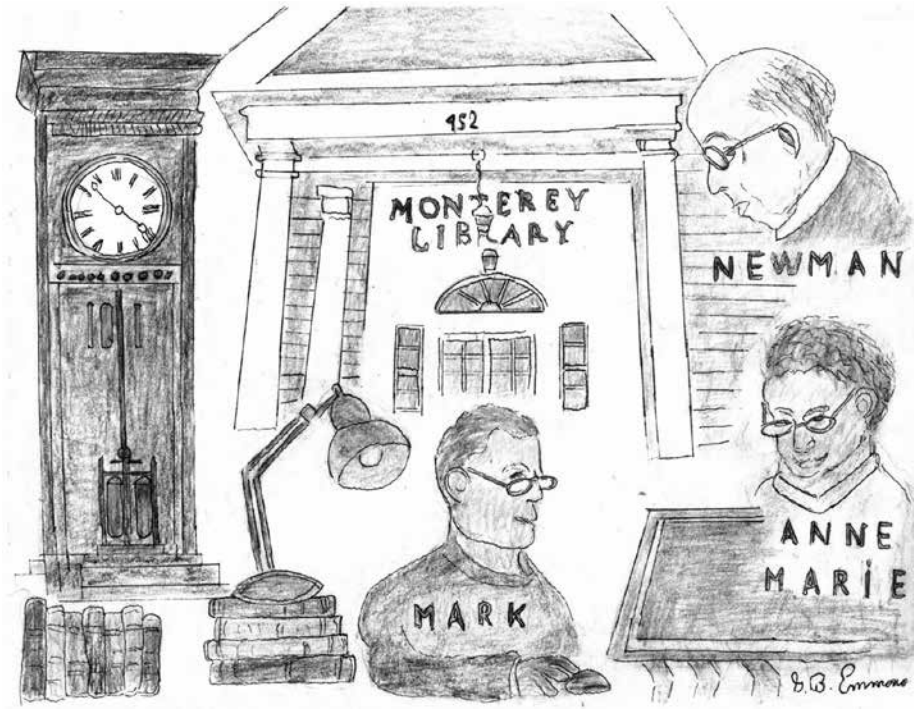
*The Meetinghouse Fund is at 40% of its goal. Please help repaint the centerpiece of Monterey's village.*

## December Contributions

Thank you, everyone, for your contributions to our town newspaper, now, or any time.

Glenn Heller
Ken & Laurel Kahn
Eileen Clawson
Mike & Laura Arnow
Louise Amstead
Berkshire Fish Hatchery

## Mark Makuc
### Monterey Town Library




The library first opened in May of 1891 and moved to its present location, 452 Main Road, in 1931. Since 1931 there have only been three directors. Mark has been library director for almost ten years. He succeeded his mother, Anne Marie Makuc, who held that position for twenty-seven years (1978-2005). Before her was Newman Abercrombie, the town's librarian for thirty-four years (1924-1958). Today the library collection has grown to more than nine thousand books, magazines, tapes, videocassettes, CDs, DVDs, local museum passes, town reports, and an archive of the *Monterey News*.

Mark graduated from Brown University in 1984 with a degree in history, which serves him well as a library consultant on that subject. Mark carries forward a Monterey family tradition supporting the town. His father, Henry, was the town's tax collector from 1972 to 2004 and was succeeded by Anne Marie, Mark's sister. Mark is president of the Monterey Republican Party, as well as a captain of the Fire Company. In addition, he has been town moderator for no less than 30 years. He also works as the Licensed Operator (for public water supply systems) for the Monterey Water Company and Gould Farm.

Library activities feature a summer children's reading program sponsored by the Massachusetts Library Board Commission, regular book groups (his daughter, Nadia, has recently started a children's book group), reading aloud sessions, kindergarten class visits, as well as public use of the computers for internet access and document printing. The annual used book sale, managed by the Friends of the Monterey Library, is held on the last Saturday in July on the front lawn, offering donated books as well as books removed from the library's shelves. As librarian, he has been immensely helped by the Friends. The library is blessed with eighty-five volunteers who contributed 546 hours of work during the past fiscal year, along with the support of the present Library Board of Directors: Lisa Smyle (Chair), Mary Paul Yates, Mickey Jervas, Beth Reiter, Laurie Shaw, and Kenn Basler.

The Knox Gallery, housed in the Knox annex, annually sponsors eight curated art exhibits, including two "community" exhibits of work by local people around a theme. Several of the art exhibits are preceded by opportunities for the artists to talk about their work, and these artist talks are financially supported by the Monterey Cultural Council. The Knox Gallery is a dedicated team effort by Julie Shapiro, Mary Paul Yates, Libby Wolf, and Michael Banner. The current community exhibit, *Circle Round* is on view through January 31, during regular library hours. The opening for this exhibit was timed to coincide with this past December's Monterey Makers Studio Tour, and really highlights the talent and vision of many artists in the area.

In the library reading room a visitor can find an antique Waterbury grandfather clock, there since 1931. The clock was a gift from The Conley Inn in Torrington CT, and Mrs. Conley, born Alice Tryon, sister of Delmar and Bert Tryon. It has been standing by as sentinel through generations of visitors and three directors.

The library is again considering its future through the planning process of the Library Building Needs Forum, as outlined by Mark in the December issue of the *Monterey News*. The library questionnaire seeks public participation to help prioritize needs for interior usage, exterior parking expansion, and general renovation. We all should respond promptly to this questionnaire—the Monterey library is a cultural and educational conveyance from a historic past into a challenging high technology future! Under the leadership of the Board of Directors, and with Monterey public support, the present library is in good hands. There may be many others like Mark who make the free lending library today one of the greatest institutions in America

—George B. Emmons

*(The Monterey Library Building Needs Survey can be picked up at the library or the town hall, or can be filled out online on the town's website, MontereyMA.gov)*

# P.O. Box 9

## Fire Department Appreciation

My family has owned our home in Monterey for over five years. We are thankful for our neighbors and our beautiful region. About a month ago in the middle of the night our house had a carbon monoxide scare. Literally within seconds of the alarm going off Marc Makuc and the rest of the fire department were on the scene. They patrolled the house, found the issue, and, frankly, saved lives. A few minutes later our great building commissioner, Donald Torrico, arrived. Again, this was the middle of the night. Thanks to their fine work there were no further issues or tragedy. Our family is deeply grateful for their assistance and their deep commitment to service. It reminded me of another time, a couple of years back, when our young son broke his elbow. Once again, our town professionals were there assisting in the situation, providing comfort, protection, and help. My family and I want to thank Marc, Don, and every public servant, professional and volunteer. Your work is deeply valued by all of us. You help make our town great. Thank you and happy holidays.

Sincerely, Matthew Frankel
559 Main Road

## Lessons from Alice Howell

I wrote a while back about "Lessons from Alice Howell."

Of the many lessons Alice taught me, I guess I have to consider the obvious! I love her story about truth just lying in the road. I have always believed that truth is effortless. Truth doesn't require arguments for or against because it touches everyone in their hearts, not their intellect. I agree with her passionate plea that the believers of all the great religions basically follow the same God and they have more in common with each other than differences. Those differences are definitely not worth killing each other for.

My great regret is that I will never learn to cackle. So I can't become a wise old crone.

With loving memories for a very special and honored friend.

—Steve Pullen

# Spring Band and Chorus Trip

## Mt. Everett School

Traditional learning within the walls of a school works, but it's when students leave the classroom and experience the world that true learning begins.

The Mt. Everett music department understands this concept and takes a major trip every other spring. These trips are often the highlight of a student's high school career. This spring the trip is to Southern California. While the trip is not required, the goal is for all students to have the ability to attend, regardless of financial circumstances. Monterey sends eleven students who participate in band or chorus, with several active in both.

Past trips include Orlando in 2011 and Virginia Beach in 2013. While on the trip, students attend a workshop with a notable music clinician, compete and occasionally perform at a theme park, sight see, and bond as a group. At past competitions, the musical ensembles have won prestigious awards, increasing the program's notoriety and encouraging students to be their best.

This spring's trip to California will include a visit to the Santa Monica Pier, a competition at Disneyland, a guided tour of Los Angeles, and a visit to Venice Beach to experience the Pacific Ocean.

As mentioned above, the school and students can't afford this on their own. If you are willing to donate, your contribution will financially assist a low-income student so that they may be able to go with the rest of the group.

Belinda Twing

*Mt. Everett School's music department trophy case*

If you would like to help, please contact choir director Chris Clark or band director Courtney English at (413) 229-8778 ext. 126, or you can mail your support to Mt. Everett Music Dept., PO Box 219 Sheffield, MA 01257.

Thank you for supporting the music programs in our district.

—Robert Twing Jr.
President of the Music Booster Club

*If there are significant student events, awards, or accomplishments, please don't hesitate to contact the* Monterey News *to let me know. —Ed.*

## Monterey Makers Studio Tour

After attending my first Monterey Makers Studio Tour in December, I feel compelled to express my gratitude to all who organized and participated in it.

I had only two hours that day to make my way to as many studios I could. It was cold and rainy, but I was instantly given a warm welcome by the many talented neighborhood artists who opened their homes and hearts to the community that day.

The works on display were exquisite, and I felt uplifted by the artists' passion for what they do and how well they do it. I highly recommend the Studio Tour to anyone who hasn't yet been.

—Ann Canning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# Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1995

*January is a new year, but the years past have been important as well. As we shift gears for a new year, I thought it would be interesting to shift the* Monterey News *to add an opportunity to look back to what happened in our town twenty years ago. The Monterey library's archive of* Monterey News *issues from 1995 are available by request for use in the library.*

*—Stephen Moore, Editor*

## Memorial Day Tornado

The big story in 1995 was the tornado which hit in late May. From the front page of the July 1995 issue:

"Just after seven o'clock on the evening of May 29, 1995, Memorial Day, a tornado that ripped through Egremont and Great Barrington continued east into Monterey. Three people were killed at Eagleton School on Route 23 near the Monterey town line when the car they were in was thrown through the air and crushed. The driver was found in the road, seriously injured by alive. Two of the victims were students at Eagleton. The third person killed had been an Eagleton employee for eighteen years.

"In Monterey eight through-roads (Main Road, Pixley Road, Corashire Road, River Road, Gould Road, Wellman Road, New Marlborough Road, and Sandisfield Road) were completely blocked by fallen trees, poles, and wires, hundreds of acres of woodlands were leveled, and many houses and vehicles were damaged or destroyed. Electricity and telephone service were cut for days. It is only by enormous good fortune that more people were not killed or injured by the tornado, or in the all-night effort to clear roads and search for survivors in its immediate aftermath. Many were terrified and, as is typical of the sharply focused violence of a tornado, many others were oblivious. Good luck and bad were scattered at random across South Berkshire."

What followed this introduction by editor Peter Murkett were personal accounts and stories by Anita Carroll-Weldon, Ann McGinley and Dan Andrus, Ray Tryon and Monterey Fire Company, John and Maureen Congdon, MaryKate Jordan, Melissa Warner, Amanda Theriot, Lew Scheffey, Glynis Oliver, Francine Groener, Michele Brooks, Brandy Groener (age 9), Linda Gero, and Maggie Leonard.

There were many notable stories about this event, and the aftermath of the tornado contributed to the news for many months. People from throughout Monterey and the area turned out to help in many ways. Funds were raised to help individuals who were heavily affected and to help finance replanting of trees in many places.

Through the efforts of the Monterey Select Board and area representatives, units of the National Guard and the Seabees arrived on September 16 to assist with the clean-up. A company of twelve men worked for thirty days of active duty, departing on October 20. They cleared fire breaks and buffer zones in the tornado-ravaged woods around houses.

### Gould Farm

Gould Farm lost its sheep barn, and other buildings were damaged. In October they set about rebuilding by bringing in Chip Smith, of Russell, MA, with his bandsaw mill (November, p. 9) to saw lumber out of downed trees. Members of the Mennonite Disaster Team, visiting the site shortly after the tornado, offered to return to cut and erect a timber-frame replacement barn. *(Note: The Mennonites did return the following year and rebuilt the barn.)*

## Other Stories During 1995

### Bidwell House Historic Garden Established

The Bidwell House Museum began it's fifth season by opening "new ground for the eighteenth-and nineteenth-century heirloom vegetable garden." They intended to "feature varieties, and using techniques from the time period 1750-1855, the dates that the Bidwell family occupied the property." The project was partially funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. (May, p. 7)

### Lake Garfield Seepage Survey

Friends of Lake Garfield brought in Ken Wagner, PhD, to conduct an extensive study of groundwater seepage from around the borders of Lake Garfield. The team reported on both the quantity and quality of the water at selected areas around the lake. The result was "a good base-line snapshot of our lake's condition." (May p. 8)

*(*Other Stories *cont'd on p.14)*

Alarm Response - Security Checks
Key Holder - Property Management
Residential - Commercial
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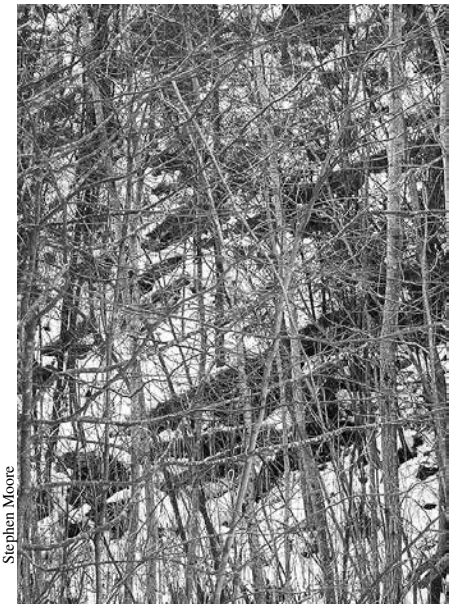
kbalestro@aol.com
home 413.528.3944
cell 413.429.7094

## Transfer Station Winter Hours

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday | 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |

Glynis Oliver

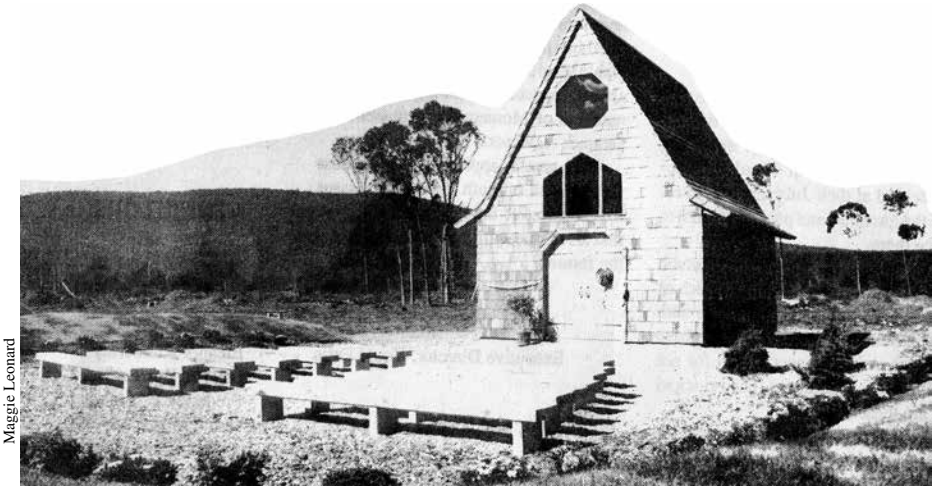

Stephen Moore

*Left: River Road looking south from Will Marsh and Glynis Oliver's house. The road is under the trees in back right center. The debris is from their newly roofed garage and some outbuildings. Right: A recent photo of the hillside on River Road. Underneath the saplings, and the tall, dead trunks of trees stripped but not felled, one can see the fallen trunks covering the entire slope.*

The Eagleton school memorialized the three members of their school community who were killed by building a small chapel alongside Route 23, using lumber and timbers sawn from trees wrecked by the tornado.

*Right, above: The chapel at its dedication on August 18, 1995 (from the* Monterey News*, September, p. 19.)*

*Right, below: The chapel as it appears today. Time has not stood still.*


Maggie Leonard

Stephen Moore

Circle Round

a community exhibition

Dec. 5, 2014 - Jan. 31, 2015

KNOX GALLERY

Monterey Library

Supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

# Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years—"Monterey News" from 1995

## McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship Established

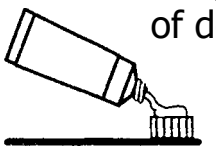
"The McLaughlin-Wilson Scholarship was established to assist Monterey residents in post-secondary education. The first awards were made this year to two graduates of Monument Mountain Regional High School. The scholarship fund was set up by Edith Wilson. Grants will be awarded annually by a committee made up of one member from the Select Board, one member of the Park Commission, one Monterey Library trustee, the School Committee representative, and the librarian of the Monterey Library. The fund is administered by the Berkshire-Taconic Foundation." (July, p. 27) *(Note: As published in the September 2014* Monterey News*, the scholarship has awarded over one million dollars to Monterey students.)*

## Dedication of Diane's Bridge

On June 17, Diane's Bridge, built in memory of Gould Farm forester Bob Rausch's wife, Diane, was dedicated in front of "150 of Diane's relatives, friends, and connections." The bridge is a link in Diane's Trail, built from Wellman Road to Curtis Road, and involved many from the Gould Farm community and folks from Monterey and the area. (August, p. 3) *(Note: The original Diane's Bridge from 1995 was redesigned and rebuilt, and is now an elegant arch by Jon Greene, who helped spearhead the original project. The new bridge was dedicated in October 2009)*

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



528-6520

Route 23 Monterey

## Bequest of Wilson-McLaughlin Property

Edith Wilson's will granted the McLaughlin-Wilson house with twenty-eight acres and the rental house, Bally Gally, to the town for municipal purposes. Town officials were able to view the property on two separate occasions, and later the town voted to accept her offer. (November, p.1-2) *(Note: The Friends of the Monterey Community Center are well into the renovation of the house, with walls, windows, and doors expected to be installed during January, 2015.)*

## Recyclables and Transfer Station

Joyce Scheffey, chairperson of Monterey's Solid Waste Committee, pushed to make sure that all recyclables were properly disposed of, including those collected by private haulers. An image by Gige O'Connellin from the September issue (p. 3) sported the caption, "Joyce Scheffey gets down and dirty", and showed Joyce digging deep into a pile of garbage in search of recyclables as evidence.

## Other Notable Events of 1995:

- 6th annual Monterey Hockey cup, won by the Blades. (February, p. 4-5)
- Keith Snow, New Pastor for United Church of Christ. (May, p.19)
- Roadside Cafe gives up selling gasoline, (September, p. 20)
- 14th Annual Monterey Road Race, won by Neil Toomey of Chester, with a time of twenty-seven minutes, fifty-seven seconds. (September, p. 9)

## Obituaries:

- Wallace Tryon, 100, (January, p. 18).
- Edith Lavinia Wilson, (July, p.18).
- Jean Constance Stowell, (July, p. 35).
- Dro E. Proudian, (July, p. 35).
- John Adams, (September, p. 22).
- Brad Duhon, (September, p. 22).

## People Serving the Town:

On the Select Board:

- Peter Brown
- Stefan Grotz
- Georgiana O'Connell

*(Note: At the urging of Gige O'Connell, the town voted in 1995 to change the title of this body from "Board of Selectmen" to "Select Board.")*

- Town Clerk—Barbara Swann
- Town Moderator—Mark Makuc
- Fire Chief—Ray Tryon
- Highway Foreman—Don Amstead
- Police Chief—Gareth Backhaus
- Monterey Church Pastor—Keith Snow
- State Rep.—Christopher Hodgkins
- State Senator—Jane Swift

## At the Monterey News

- Peter Murkett—Editor

## Regular Reporters:

- David P. McAllester—Wildlife Survey
- Stephanie Grotz—Personal Notes
- Maggie Leonard, Jane Black—Town Reports
- Claudette Callahan—Children's Health Program
- Anita Carroll-Weldon—Bidwell House Museum News

*Two of the many horses drawn by Sudi Baker in 1995 when she was ten years old.*

- Melvene Dyer-Bennet—Democratic Party, Small Town Management series
- Pauline Nault—Council on Aging
- Judy Hayes—Monterey Church News
- Joyce Scheffey—Monterey Solid Waste Committee
- Mary Wallace, Lecturer—Monterey Grange

### Regular Essayists:

- MaryKate Jordan—"Crone Services"
- Bonner McAllester—Natural History
- Peter Murkett—"Voxed"
- "Miss El" (Ellen Pearson)—"Tales from Texas"
- Joan Woodward Reed—"On the Road Again," from Alabama.
- Pastor Keith Snow
- Many other folks in town contributed as reporters and letter writers.

### Poetry by:

- Asa Hardcastle
- Nick Hardcastle
- Gerald Hausman
- A.O. Howell
- Lesley Givet
- MaryKate Jordan
- Eleanor Kimberley
- David P. McAllester
- D. R. Strange
- and others

### Artwork by:

- Joe Baker
- Sudi Baker
- Maureen Banner
- Christopher Carnese
- Erika Crofut
- Virginia Faesy
- Bonner McAllester
- Michele Miller
- Peter Murkett
- Peter Sachs
- and numerous young children

### Democrats Study of Small Town Management

This extensive multi-part series was an in-depth look at all the town government positions
and functions. Three parts were produced prior to 1995, with parts four through nine appearing in 1995.

### The Autobiography of Hannah Climena Pixley

First installment, December, p. 16-18. Hannah Pixley was born in Monterey on October 24, 1862. She began the telling of her true-life story at the age of seventy-four, still living in Monterey. The story appeared over several months, edited for length and cohesiveness, with commentary based on research by Peter Murkett and Ian Jenkins. The complete autobiographical text (handwritten) may be seen at the Monterey Library

### Monterey Architectural Photo Series

Maggie Leonard, Peter Murkett.

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**Elizabeth Goodman, Pastor**

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**Weekday Lunch Specials**

Jan. 7 - 9
**Sweet Potato Quesadillas**
Served with Brazilian black bean soup, salsa & sour cream

Jan. 14 - 16
**Farm Pork Tamales**
Served with chili sauce, rice & beans

Jan. 21 - 23
**Roadside Tacos**
Homemade corn tortillas with veggie or meat fillings

Jan. 28 - 30
**Empañadas**
Served with carrot chili soup

In addition to regular menu items

GOULD FARM
Harvesting Hope • Promoting Recovery

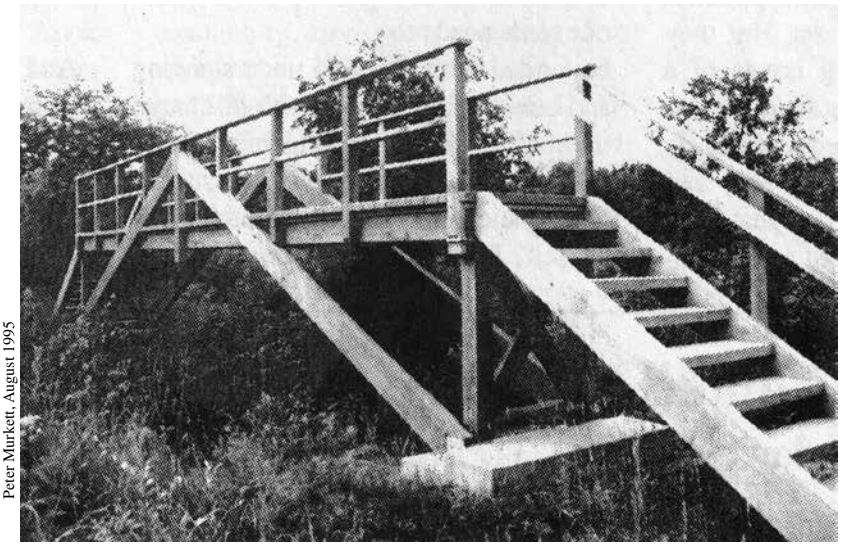
*Gould Farm is a therapeutic community that promotes recovery for people living with mental health challenges.*

# Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1995

## A Pleasant English Summer, A Life Ago

Marigolds and hollyhocks and
dew-drenched bending roses
flax, weld, and floxglove
and the river moving time along
reflecting and collecting
all that lovely, lovely summersong—
thinking now in winter
of our older saddened eyes
parted and yet joined
by grey and sodden city skies

—A. O. Howell
February 1995.



Peter Murkett, August 1995

*Diane's Bridge in 1995 (the original one) over the Konkapot River. See p. 14.*

Unknown

Peter Murkett, November 1995

Lips and eyes
Flash in the dusk
Of memories
Held in the husk
Of promise

Every facet
We discover
Reveals a gift
Of fervor
True in spirit

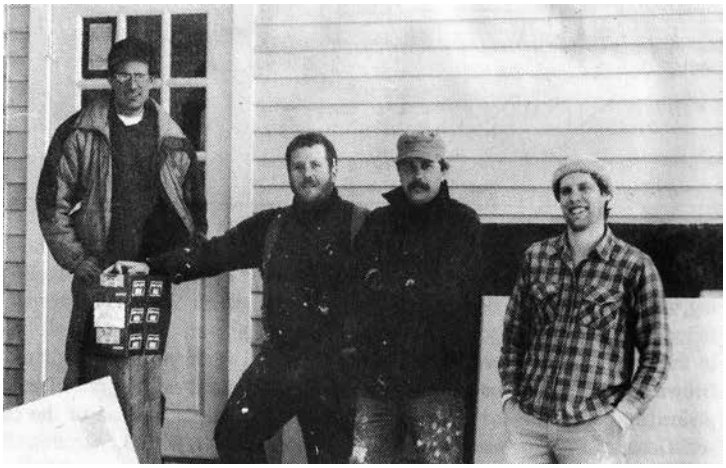
Hearts in motion
Hearts at rest
Bright flirtation
Still dark next
Of mind and body union

—Lesley Givey
June 1995

*Above left: Edith Wilson with Marjorie McLaughlin and their new Pontiac convertible in 1951;*

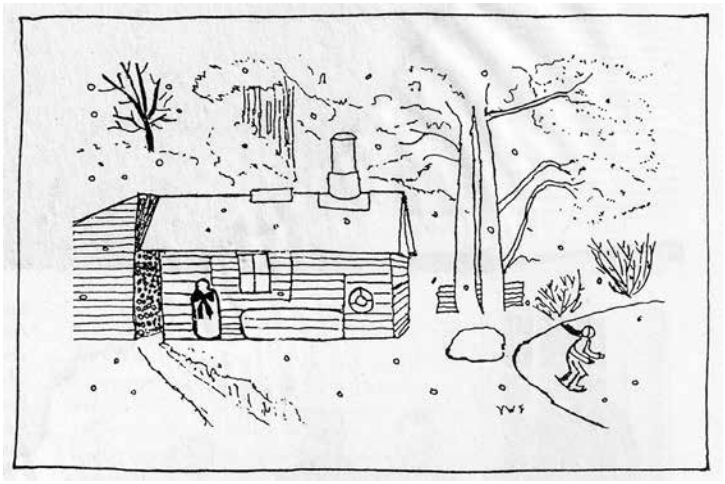
*Left: Their house on New Marlborough Road in 1995. See p. 14.*

# Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1995



Maggie Leonard, January 1995

*South County Joiners Phil Newey, Scott Jenssen, John Bazonski, and Eric Pedersen at the Monterey General Store, January 1995.*



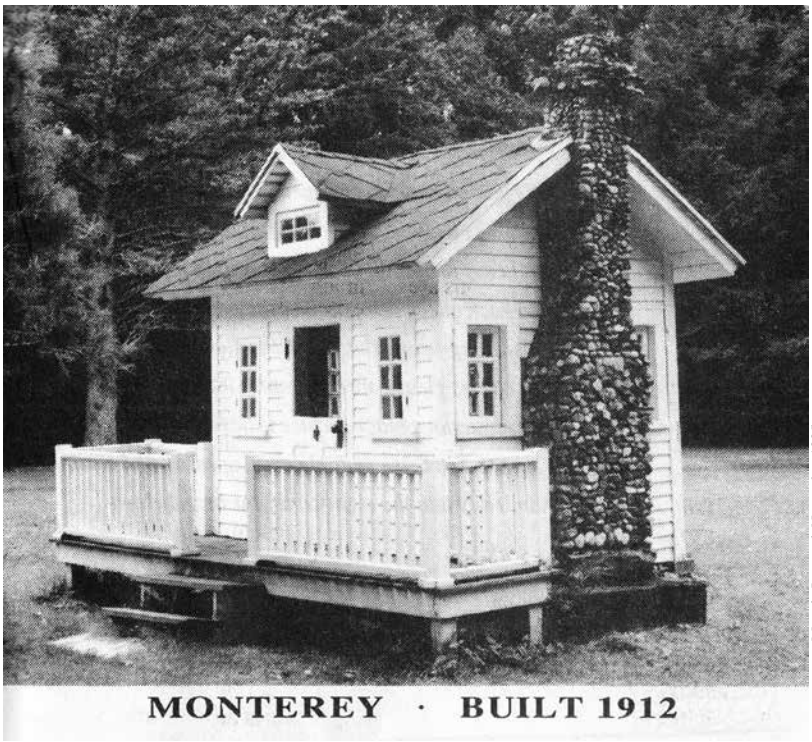
## For the Barn

The tornado tore up the forest and the barn was gone,
Months ago, leaving a bigger sky. Now the ball field
Is a lumber yard of neatly stacked piles.
The hole is dug for a foundation.
And order seems to seep back
As rains refill the dredged pond.
We will build. And we'll build. And we'll build.
There is no certainty. It could happen again.
But we will raise a barn,
As we raise our children,
In the face of entropy. To touch
Those rough-hewn beams cut fresh from the forest
Is to touch the future,
The saw hums with dust and promise.

—Amy Goldfarb
December 1995

*Left: A winter scene from the front page of the January 1995* Monterey News*, by Virginia Faesy.*

*Below left: One of several photos from 1995 as part of a series of architectural photos taken by Maggie Leonard and Peter Murkett.*




Maggie Leonard, November 1995

## Ode to Autumn (first stanza)

There is sorrow in the air
cool and crisp as it is
there is sadness in the sky
for the season just past
there is lamenting this day
the sumptuous feast of summer
of love departing
of friends long gone
of children grown up

—R. Zukowski
November 1995

## Of Mice and Birds

There's the slap of the cat door and here comes our Lukey, with a mouse. Then the crunch of a little skeletal system as it meets up with feline chomping equipment, perfect for the job. The job is eating. Procurement has also gone just right for all concerned including the mouse. When you are the meal element, your job is to be quickly dispatched, dispatchable, and then chompable into the right sized pieces to go down the little red lane with no muss or fuss, and on to the next station, which will be the digestion department. Here again you are the perfect critter in the perfect place.

Most folks who live closely with cats have watched these roles play out on the kitchen floor many a time. From our point of view, the tidier the better and we hope not to see the mouse again, in more processed form, though sometimes we do. Then we may grumble as we clean up, but otherwise we tend to be philosophical about the little life ended, the larger one nourished. Some folks even go so far as to celebrate: "Good kitty! Got another one of the little varmints, yay."

Then there is the other story. Slap goes the cat door and here comes Lukey with—a chickadee. Crunch—the little avian skeletal system—so far so good for the bird and the cat, but not the folks! Oh, sadness. Our damn cat has killed a sweet little innocent bird we love so much, a handsome perfect piebald angel. And what's more, an angel lured here and to its death by none other than us with our birdseed. We bought it, we put up the feeder, we sit inside our warm kitchen grooving on semi-domesticated dependent feathered angels, and then along comes our other side, our vicious killer: Lukey. The guy we love when he is on our lap, or when he is amusingly chasing his tail in the tub. The guy we brought home from the animal shelter when he was such a sweet little kitten. Now look. Thanks to him, well, maybe thanks to us, a little angel is dead. Also a little angel has shed feathers all over the place, mighty hard to tidy up compared with a few mouse parts.

What to do, what to do? Who is vicious and who is just doing what they do? I looked up vicious in the dictionary and guess what, it is not about crunching and swallowing, it is about vice, and when I think of vice, I do not think of Lukey. I don't think of any of the critters out there with procurement and chomping skills. Maybe vicious is in the eye of the beholder, who is us. We are also the suppliers of birdseed, and this year for the first time in forty years we aren't doing any. The feeder stands quiet outside our window. Now and then an angel flies by just to check, remembering years gone by. What we have is a simple empty table, so anyone wanting a snack moves along into the woods for acorns or up to the orchard for goldenrod seeds. Lukey still finds a mouse now and then, but no birds so far. When I see a bird this winter, or even hear one, I am thrilled. They have gotten wilder to me, independent neighbors whose meal tickets and daily rhythms have nothing to do with me and mine. That we intersect sometimes is a miracle, unpredictable.

I don't think Lukey distracts himself with notions of miracle or vice. Only we do this. This is our ability, the gift we got somehow. May we also have what it takes to be careful how we sling it around.

—Bonner McAllester

*Maureen Banner, February 1995*

Bonner McAllester

*Recent Monterey boot and moose tracks.*

## December 2014 Wildlife
### In Brief...

Making a list, making it twice:

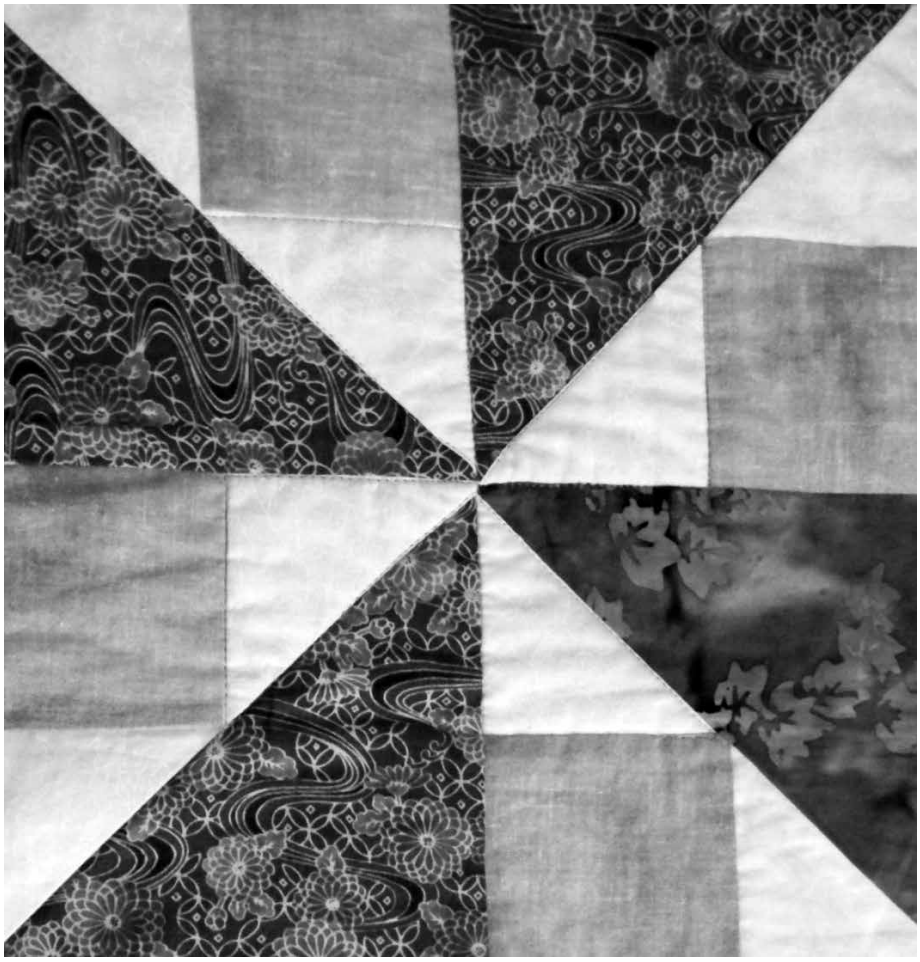
Bluebirds, evening grosbeaks, snow buntings, a cardinal, blue jays, robins, geese, hooded mergansers, mallards, wood ducks, a bald eagle, turkeys, barred owls, otters, a small bobcat, and moose tracks in new snow on Mt. Hunger.

Steve Snyder, Delight Dodyk, Ed Salsitz, Wendy Jensen, Bob Carlson, Alice Berke, and reporter—

—Bonner McAllester
bmca@berkshire.net or 528-9385

Anonymous Rink Volunteer

*The Monterey Ice Rink was assembled the Saturday after Thanksgiving by volunteers. Weather permitting, the rink will open around January 1st.*
*Front row: Steve Graves, Peter Poirier, Dan Breton, Eric Krawczyk.*
*Back row: Don Torrico, Kerry Jassen, Ben Torrico, Kelly Tryon.*



Mary Kate Jordan

*This quilt block is a traditional pattern called Brave World. Along with starting the year's new calendar, start a new quilt block. And a new world.*

## Quilts and Calendars

A calendar's not a quilt. A quilt's made of fabric and stitches. A calendar's usually paper, or electronic, not cloth, even though a calendar sews time together. Each is made of its own different parts, each for a different purpose.

But each one has to have enough self-similarity to provide a sense of continuity: days, weeks, months for the calendar; colors, forms, and proportion for the quilt. And during the construction, as well as when each is finished, hopefully they also display enough variety to spark, or even maintain, interest.

How does that happen? Quilts and calendars both start with hope, and with a pile of not-yet-completed parts. While being created, each includes important stuff that doesn't show on the surface. There's the sense of hope, of course. And buried knots, like the wool, cotton or polyester batting, don't show on the top or bottom of the quilt. Erased plans and unplanned events don't show on the surface of a calendar.

Piles of fabric pieces waiting to be sewn, and the clear spaces where days, weeks, and months unplanned, sometimes tell a larger story, but they usually only mean—"work in progress." By the time they're finished, though, calendars and quilts each show a pattern of experience that may or may not conform to the intended plan. Either way, both are rich with memories.

Come to think of it, a newspaper's something like that. And a town. And a life. So, why not begin the "quilt" which this year will become by braving some difficult questions? Here's one: Am I willing to live 2015 as if every life is worthwhile? The life of a black man or boy, the life of a police officer, my life, the lives of my family and friends?

Just something to think about. Live long and prosper, Monterey.

—Mary Kate Jordan

Murk and sweat, shout and laugh
Wind and shiver, curse and bark
Bright, burning hurried harvest
Of fragrant dust-green leaf and blade
Sharp, silver rigid rhythm
Of dark-bound winters wait.

—Nick Hardcastle
*From "Gedney Farm," January 1995*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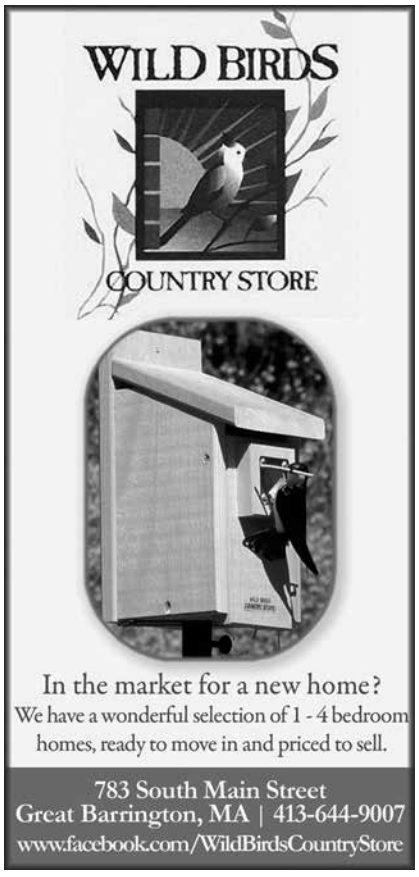
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# January 2015 Services Directory

*We'd like to thank these regular advertisers for their understanding with this month's abbreviated issue.*

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**Okerstrom-Lang Landscape Architects** Design, Planning, and Construction Management. OkerstromLang.com, 413-528-6523.

**Karen Shreefter Landscape Design** Working with clients to create captivating landscapes and gardens. KSLandscapeDesign.com, 413-528-1387.

**Tryon Stoneworks** Stonework—Excavation—Tree Care. Enhance your landscape. Define your natural space. TryonStoneworks.com, 413-528-4091.

**Webster Landscapes** We build the base. Design—Landscape—Horticulture. WebsterLandscapes.com, 413-229-8124.

**Woodruff Mountain Landscaping** Renovate, rejuvenate, or simply maintain your existing landscape. Full outdoor services—excavation, stonework, tree care. WoodruffMountain@aol.com, 413-229-2919.

## Building and Construction Services

**ABC Allentuck** Carpentry Services in Southern Berkshire County. Home repair made as simple as ABC. Josh Allentuck, 413-329-6260.

**Berkshire Geo-Technologies** Civil Engineering, site planning, hydrology, and structural design. BerkshireGeoTeck@gmail.com, 413-429-4888.

**Christopher Blair** Design, Construction Management, and Project Representation, 413-528-4960.

**Bottomline Builders** Detail oriented, full-service, hands-on contracting company in Monterey. BottomlineBuilders.net, 413-528-1260.

**Eric Pederson** Longstanding quality craftsman for timberframe buildings and restorations. Eric7inc@gmail.com, 413-528-3594.

**Webnash Builders** Quality craftsmanship for the projects you really care about. webnash.com, 413-644-0215.

## Attorney Services

**Dennis Downing** Attorney at Law. Dennis.Downing@verizon.net, 413-528-5040.

**Charles Ferris** Attorney at Law. Free consultation on any legal matter. Evening and weekend appointments available. 413-528-8900.

**Susan Smith** Attorney at Law. ssmithlaw@barrington-lawoffice.com, 413-229-7080.

**Peter Vallianos** Attorney at Law. Serving your real estate needs including purchase and sales, and zoning issues. P.Vallianos@verizon.net, 413-528-0055.

## Real Estate Services

**Barnbrook Real Estate** Superior real estate service tailored to your needs. DagmarRealty@verizon.net, 413-528-6485.

**Benchmark Real Estate** Every Community has at least one realtor like Nancy Kalodner. NancyBenchmark@verizon.net, 413-528-9595.

**Berkshire Property Agents** Maximum internet exposure, strategic market analysis. 413-528-6800.

**William Brockman Real Estate** For those who believe a second home should still be first class. BerkshiresForSale.com, 413-528-4859.

**Christine Martin Realtor** We are where you want to be! CMartin@TheKinderhookGroup.com, 413-298-0616 x304.

## Williamsburg Today
### Imagining a Different Time

When I walk the streets of Europe, I always marvel at how young the US really is, in the historical sense. A few weeks ago, I finally made it to colonial Williamsburg, stepping back in time to the earlier foundations of our country. It was a brisk and sunny December day as my roommate and I walked past an old farm, with split rail fences and small—no, tiny—dwellings. Our first stop was the governor's place, reconstructed in the 1920s. I was hardly surprised to learn that Thomas Jefferson recorded the specs of the original structure during his brief tenure as governor in the late 1700s. It made me wonder what we would know and understand about our own history without such individuals, the keepers of the early days of our story.

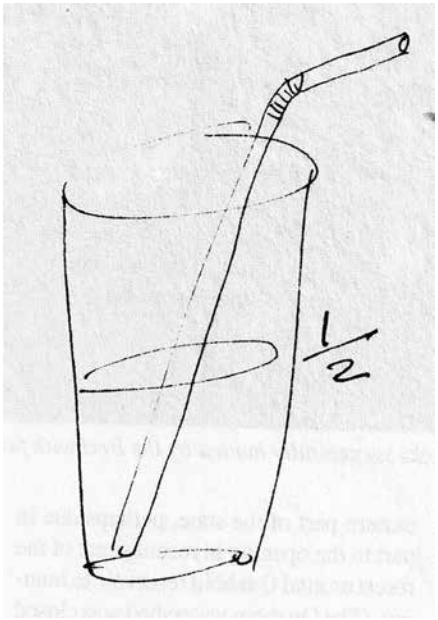
Life in colonial Williamsburg feels simple, and the basic act of walking is sufficient to remind one that so many from previous generations have walked in your footsteps. In and amongst the crowd of twenty-first century patrons lining up for hot cider, a young woman in a cap darts to the market with her basket, her hands secured in a muffler to keep warm. A gentleman stands entertaining the crowds that are beginning to gather for the evening fireworks display. Missing from this atmosphere? The sense of war and doom that must have hung over the town in the early 1770s. Tour guides discuss life as it was under a royal king and governor, but it's hard to imagine our ethos before American independence. People went about their daily lives long before the concept of self-government, which was just beginning.

We ate lunch at the King's Arms, one of the famous taverns, and the food was delicious. There is a fireplace crackling in the waiting area, and in the evenings, diners would eat by candle light; there is no modern electricity. As we raised our mugs in cheers, a musician took a seat at a table in the next room, providing live background music. I could just imagine young Thomas Jefferson reading and studying at the next table, perhaps while he was a student at the College of William and Mary. How many times have I sat at a coffee shop doing homework? My ability to take advantage of social activities back then would have been restricted due to my gender. How far we've come in some ways.

I miss living in Massachusetts (and love coming home to the Berkshires), but there is great history in my adopted state of Virginia, the first to speak for American independence as legislators gathered in the Capitol. The beginnings of our democratic experiment permeate the very atmosphere in Williamsburg. The men who gathered there represented the oldest representative assembly in the new world. Today, living in Washington DC, it is easy to bemoan so much of modern political life. But that evening we braved the evening chill for the fireworks display, brought together with thousands of our fellow citizens by an annual tradition. The fifes performed before the show, and I closed my eyes and imagined when such tunes meant young men were headed off to war against the British empire. As the fireworks exploded at three sites across the city, the visitors of all ages marveled and cheered, standing on the same grounds as our forefathers. These are the moments that history books and classes cannot emulate. This is why visits to the places of our past remind us of our present and future.

I will return in the years to come, savoring the simplicity and respite, while also reflecting on our journey as a country and the ideals we are still struggling to fulfill. My best wishes to you all as we welcome in a new year.

—Tarsi Dunlop




*Peter Murkett, January 1995*

## Strawberry Festival in November

Things close to the generous heat
Of Earth's kindness, they don't feel
The resignation and defeat
Of the tall treetops, the winged teal

When all else is flying or withdrawn
In tight bud or hibernation,
The strawberry leaves in our lawn
Are having a quiet celebration.

They put on colors, the brightest in
the land,
Yellow and orange and deepest red;
They dance a mazurka, hand in hand,
To the honk of the gooseflight,
overhead.

—David McAllester, January 1995

Peter Murkett, November 1995

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# Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

## www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

## Meetings and events:

**Agricultural Commission**: First Friday, January 2, at 10:30 a.m.
**Board of Health**: Monday, January 5, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.
**Conservation Commission**: Tuesday, January 13, at 6 p.m.
**Free blood pressure clinic**: Berkshire VNA on Thursday, January 8, from 2 to 3 p.m.
**Parks Commission**: Wednesday, January 7, at 6 p.m.
**Planning Board**: Thursdays, January 8 and 22 at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.
**Select Board meetings**: New meeting format— Monday morning meetings: 8:30-9:30 administrative business; then agenda, general business, scheduled appointments. Mondays, January 5 and 26, at 8:30 a.m., and January 12 at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

## Office/Town Hall Closings:

- Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, January 1, for New Year's Day and Monday, January 19, for Martin Luther King Day.

Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.
We recommend calling ahead to check before coming in.

## Question of the Month:

(This is intended to be an informal question to develop discussion and get a feel of where residents stand on issues and will represent only a portion of any final decisions made.)

January's Question of the Month: Would you support a redesign of the current transfer station, which will cost approximately $200,000 to construct, plus additional monies each year to staff and maintain it? To answer, please go to our homepage and click on the flashing banner, send mail to P.O. Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245, or email to admin@montereyma.gov

Last month's question asked "Should the Town support the state (Mass Broadband) and regional (WiredWest) proposal for high speed broadband which would require the Town to participate in the funding?"

Twenty-six people responded as of press time with 81% in favor and 19% opposed.

## Other news:

Winter Road Maintenance—Shawn Tryon, has provided the following information to help everyone better understand the approach to using salt and sand on the roads in the winter. The highway crew will pretreat roads with salt before storms, so you will see salt trucks before snowflakes fall. As a storm progresses we will plow and apply salt as necessary to keep snow from bonding to the road and to prevent hard pack ice from forming. There are many considerations that dictate how much salt is to be applied; the type of storm, temperatures of air and road surfaces, and the amounts of snow, ice, and rain. Sand does not keep the snow or ice from bonding—it only adds minimal traction for a very short period of time. After about ten vehicles have driven on the sand the additional traction is gone on paved roads.

The Select Board has been working on preparing the annual budget and capital purchases for FY16, which will be presented to voters at the May 2 annual town meeting. One major item that has been extensively discussed is whether or not to upgrade our current transfer station. On December 1 the Board met with Jamie Cahillane of CET and Shawn Tryon at the lower level of the transfer station to discuss current operations and the possible construction of a new facility, as well as future hauling contracting and staffing options. Currently the Master Garbologist owns the solid waste compactor where garbage bags go. The town owns the paper and cardboard compactor, but the motor on it is owned by Master Garbologist. The containers all belong to Master Garbologist with the exception of the electronics, clothing, and book bins. We have been working with a tentative capital amount of $200,000 for construction of a new facility.

Discussion among the Select Board members and the Operations Director Tryon included the possibility of providing town-hired staffing for the station, possible timelines for contracting the hauling at the current facility, and for consideration of the building proposal at town meeting. Operations Director Tryon is going to further research design options and construction costs in consultation with Cahillane to provide options for the board to present to the town.

We will be doing our best over the next few months to keep you informed on the budgeting process through the monthly Select Board Corner articles and our weekly minutes.

—Wayne Burkhart, Chair
Scott Jenssen and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board

## Transfer Station Winter Hours

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday | 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8 a.m.–1 p.m. |

## Calendar

**Every Monday except holidays**: Select Board meetings. See p. 22.

**Every Tuesday**: Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9–10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

**Through Saturday, January 31:** *Circle Round (*Group Community Exhibit), Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, see p. 8.

**Tuesday, January 6**: Sewing circle, 10-11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

**Thursday, January 8**:

Foot Care Clinic, 9-11:30 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room. See p. 5.

Free Health Promotion Program with VNA, 2–3 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

**Saturday, January 10**: Children's book group, 7 p.m. *The Secret of Zoom*, by Lynne Jonell.

**Saturday, January 17**: Lenox Contradance, Live music with Julie Vallimont—piano, Rachel Bell—accordian, and Dave Langford—guitar and fiddle. Calling by Jon Greene. All dances taught. 8:30-11:30 dance. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. www.LenoxContraDance.org,

**Tuesday, January 20**:

Sewing circle, 10-11:30 a.m., Monterey Library.

*Monterey News* Deadline

**Wednesday, January 21**: Community Potluck Supper, 6 p.m., Monterey Fellowship Hall. Dr. Lisa Nelson will speak on "Sugar: America's Favorite Drug." See p.6.

**Monday, January 26:** Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library, will discuss *Peace Like A River* by Leif Enger.

## Town Contact Information

**Emergency! 911**

**Administrative Assistant**:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

**Assessor**: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

**Building Dept.**: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

**Fire Department** (non-emergency):
528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

**Highway Dept.**: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net

**Library**: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

**Police Dept.** (non-emergency):
528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

**Post Office**: 528-4670

**Tax Collector**: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

**Town Clerk**: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
(for licenses and town records)

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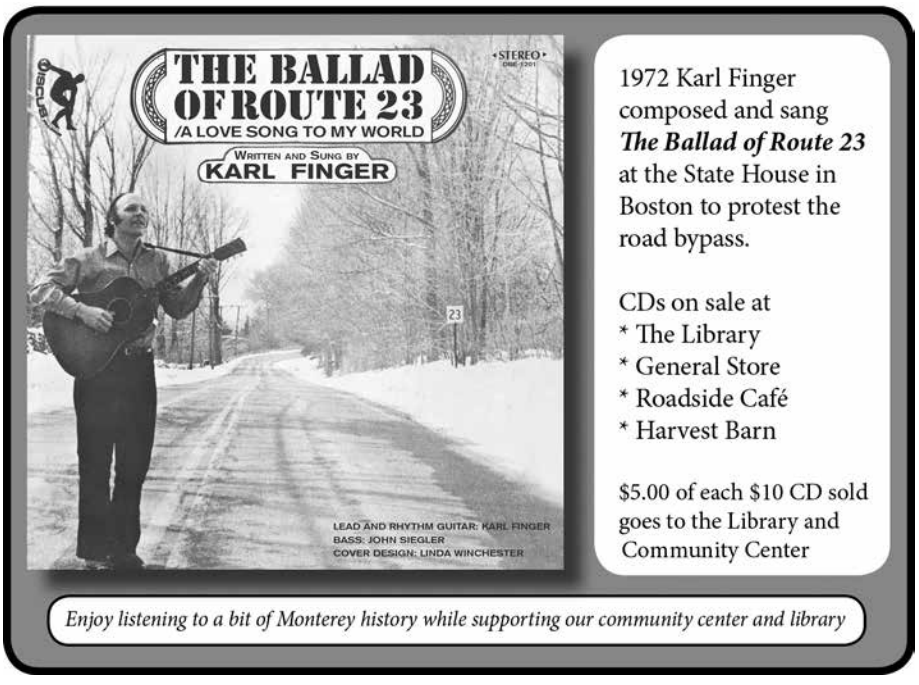
## Monterey News

The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be sent to montereynews9@gmail.com or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email

## Post-Tornado Stress Poem Number Four

The scent of pine
once meant Christmas.
This December
I'll hang wreaths of
holly on my doors,
bring one tree inside
the house, plant it
as an altar,
a symbol of
gratitude, an
angel tree, a pine.

—Mary Kate Jordan
August 1995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*Contributions from local artists this month:*
*George Emmons, p. 10; Bob Horvath, p. 9*
*Artwork from 1995 issues as labeled.*

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